

**BRITISH COLUMBIA DAIRY COUNCIL  
MILK CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM**

**MID-YEAR REPORT JANUARY TO JUNE 2011**

**OVERVIEW**

The milk container collection and recycling program continued to experience growth and expansion during the first six months of 2011.

Some highlights:

- Since June 2010 the number of participating depots has increased by 6 to **157**.
- Polycoat container collection increased by over **20%** compared to the same period in 2010 pushing the recovery rate for this container type to over 14%.
- Plastic jug collection dropped as a result of one non-depot collection agency, which had been part of the system, opting to sell its collected plastic on the open market.

**CONSUMER AWARENESS**

Continued consumer awareness is an integral part of the milk container recycling program. Various campaigns are undertaken throughout the year and a summary of 2011 activities will be provided with the full year status report in early 2012.

**DEPOT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE**

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING DEPOTS**

Since program inception the number of Encorp depots participating in the program has steadily increased. The total number of Encorp-authorized beverage container depots is currently 172.

Participating Depots – Mid Year	
2007	<b>117</b>
2008	<b>124</b>
2009	<b>144</b>
2010	<b>151</b>
2011	<b>157</b>

## TOTAL WEIGHT OF CONTAINERS COLLECTED BY PARTICIPATING DEPOTS (Kg)

	JAN-JUNE 2008	JAN-JUNE 2009	JAN-JUNE 2010	JAN-JUNE 2011	JAN-JUNE INCREASE 2010-2011
PLASTIC	85,378	122,192	136,374	131,947	<b>-3%</b> (see note)
POLYCOAT	60,637	86,781	152,693	183,959	<b>20.5%</b>
Totals	146,015	208,973	289,067	315,906	<b>9.3%</b>

**Note:** One large non-depot collection point ceased participation in the Encorp system opting to sell its plastic milk jugs on the open commodity market. This resulted in a 19,000Kg decrease in plastic collections through the Encorp system but not in the overall collection of these containers.

Collections per depot continue to increase with each depot currently in the system having **collected an average of 2012 Kgs per depot** during this period an increase of **98Kg per depot** despite an increase in the total number of depots.

## RECOVERY RATES

### January-June Recovery Rates - Depots Only

*Including soy and milk substitute sales*

	HDPE (Kgs)			Polycoat (Kgs)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
SALES	2,260,565	2,300,156	<b>2,094,055</b>	1,345,039	1,542,642	<b>1,508,393</b>
Depot Recovery	122,192	136,374	<b>131,947</b>	86,871	152,693	<b>183,959</b>
Depot Recovery Rate	5.4%	5.9% (see note below)	<b>6.3% (see note below)</b>	6.5%	9.9%	<b>14.4%</b>

### NOTE: Curbside Recovery of HDPE

In the past three years the market for HDPE plastic has been very competitive with the result that curbside collectors have a variety of options for selling the collected material. This fragmentation of the market has limited the ability to assemble data from processors but, given that there have been no material changes to the frequency and extent of consumer curbside collection and the fact that HDPE is a sought-after commodity in curbside collection systems, it is a reasonable assumption that the overall recovery rate for these types of containers remains in the **75 to 85%** range as previous reports have indicated.

## **Summary**

Two key factors affected the program for the first six months of 2011; these factors are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. For the first time dairies have reported a fall in overall milk sales; this is reflected in the weight of containers reported sold since there have been no material changes in the weights of individual packages. The second factor is the market value of HDPE which has diverted some product from the Encorp system. From a performance perspective, however, the voluntary collection system continues to grow with per-depot weights still on the increase.

A full year-end report for 2011 will be made available in 2012.

Prepared from information supplied by industry sources by:

M. E. Harvey and Associates

[MEHAssociates@shaw.ca](mailto:MEHAssociates@shaw.ca)